

Letter and enclosure from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, March 9, 1901

Volta Bureau, March 9, 1901. Dear Mabel: —

I have just received a note from Mr. Walcott, to the following effect: —

“U. S. Geological Survey 3-7-01 Dear Dr. Bell: —

Enclosed please find copy of Resolution passed by the Washn. Acad. Science and which will be considered by the Board of the G.W.M.A. on March 13.

Sincerely, (Signed) Chas. D. Walcott”.

Mr. Walcott has taken the movement up and is now pushing it. He is certainly entitled to control the movement in its present stage, and he thinks it best to work quietly without attracting too much public attention, and therefore asks me to consider the Resolutions—for the present — as confidential. Therefore will you please also consider this communication as confidential until the proper time comes to speak of it.

Your loving husband Alec. Mrs. A. Graham Bell 6 rue de Longchamp,

FOR MRS. BELL. 1331 Connecticut Avenue Washington, D. C. March 9, 1901. Dear Sir:

—

Mr. Graham Bell wishes me to let you know that the General Deficiency Bill passed by the 56th Congress contains a clause to the following effect.

Very respectfully, B.A. Safford Secretary.

Library of Congress

“That facilities for study and research in the Government Departments, the Library of Congress, the National Museum, the Zoological Park, the Bureau of Ethnology, the Fish Commission, the Botanic Gardens, and similar institutions hereafter established shall be afforded to scientific investigators and to duly qualified individuals, students, and graduates of institutions of learning in the several States and Territories, as well as in the District of Columbia, under such rules and restrictions as the heads of the Departments and Bureaus mentioned may prescribe.”

The above is now the law.

N. B. The above communication has been sent to, Prof. Langley, President Gilman, President Dabney, Mr. A. C. True, Mr. Nicholas Murray Butler, President Harper, Mr. Arthur W. McCurdy.

B.A.S.

PERSONAL. March 9, 1901. Mr. Charles D. Walcott, Geological Survey, Washington, D. C. Dear Mr. Walcott: —

Many thanks for the copy of Resolution passed by the Washington Academy of Sciences. Hope the George Washington Memorial Association will agree to it and that the National Educational Association and the Association of Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations will fall into line and all pull together. I shall be glad to help in any way I can.

Congratulations upon your success so far. Best wishes for continued success in the future.

CONFIDENTIAL .

RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE WASHINGTON ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

RESOLUTION

Library of Congress

To provide for the founding in the City of Washington, by co-operation of the GEORGE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION and the WASHINGTON ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, of a George Washington Memorial Institution .

Whereas , the object of the George Washington Memorial Association is two fold: First, as implied in its name, the creation of a memorial to George Washington; second, as stated in its amended act of incorporation, the increase in the City of Washington of opportunities and facilities for higher education, as recommended by George Washington in his various annual messages to Congress, notably the first — i.e., “The promotion of science and literature” substantially as set forth in his last will, and by and through such other plans and methods as may be necessary or suitable; and

Whereas , The object of the Washington Academy of Sciences, the federated head of the scientific societies of Washington, is the promotion of science, the term “science” being used in its general sense — “knowledge: comprehension of facts and principles” and

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Whereas , The objects of the two organizations being to a large extent similar, it is deemed best by both that co-operation be entered into between them to carry these objects into effect, and

Whereas , Although American Universities have so developed since George Washington's time that they fulfil many of the objects of the National University outlined by him as desirable for the youth of the United States, there is still need of an organization in the City of Washington which shall facilitate the utilization of the various scientific and other resources of the Government for purposes of research, thus co-operating with all universities, colleges, and individuals, in giving men and women the practical post-graduate training which cannot be obtained elsewhere in the United States, and which is now available only to a limited degree in the City of Washington; and

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Whereas , It is the opinion of the George Washington Memorial Association and of the Washington Academy of Sciences that the best method of securing the objects for which both organizations stand is the establishment within the District selected by Washington as a site for the permanent seat of government of the United States, of an institution whose object shall be the realization of Washington't repeatedly expressed wish and recommendation that provision be made for the promotion of science and literature : therefore, be it

Resolved, That the George Washington Memorial Association co-operate with the Washington Academy of Sciences to found in the City of Washington an institution to be known as The George Washington Memorial Institution; and be it further

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Resolved, That in such co-operation the George Washington Memorial Association un ?a de rtake to secure a suitable site and erect thereon a substantial, dignified building sacred to the memory of George Washington; and that the Washington Academy of Sciences undertake to provide for the maintenance and for the conduct of the institution in the interest of science and literature, and there may be joined with it in this work the National Educational Association, and the Association of Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations: and be it further

Resolved , That the management, control, and policy of the institution reside in a board of trustees, consisting of the Secretary of State, Secretary of the Treasury, Secretary of the Interior, Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, the Librarian of Congress, the Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries, the Commissioner of Labor, and the President of the National Academy of Sciences, as honorary members, and twelve (12) other persons whose term of office shall be three years, 4 trustees to be elected annually, their selection to be made as follows: a joint committee of 8 persons, 2 chosen by the Academy, and 2 by each of the said Associations, shall nominate trustees. These nominees shall be ballot t e d for in joint meeting of the executive boards of the Academy

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and said associations, and a majority vote shall elect; such board shall constitute a body corporate, and have power to fill vacancies.